



March 28, 2019

San Diego City Council
City of San Diego
202 C Street, 10A
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Honorable Members of the San Diego City Council,

We write this letter in support of your proposed changes to the City of San Diego's massage establishment police permit regulations and respectfully request that the City Attorney's office work with the San Diego Police Department to evaluate and create ordinance language that will achieve the proposed goals.

Since 2017, Free to Thrive has provided comprehensive legal services to human trafficking survivors, which includes vacating criminal records for survivors of human trafficking, so they may obtain a fresh start in life. Currently, we serve over 130 survivors through our twelve legal clinics throughout San Diego County, including one at Las Colinas Correctional Facility and one at the San Diego Family Justice Center. We are partnered with several organizations throughout San Diego to assist our clients in obtaining services, such as safe and supportive housing, trauma-specific counseling, financial literacy, and education and vocational assistance. Our ultimate goal is to empower survivors to improve their physical and mental health, complete their education, obtain gainful employment, and achieve financial independence.

In addition to advocating for programs that support human trafficking survivors, Free to Thrive also supports, and advocates for legislation that combats human trafficking, such as the proposed changes to regulate massage establishments through revocable police permits. By providing greater oversight through a streamlined process, this legislation will equip our City with the best practices in massage establishment regulation, which have already proven effective and efficient in combatting prostitution, human trafficking, and other illicit activities susceptible to this profession.

It is imperative, though, that this increased regulation is coupled with the provision of social services to trafficking victims in order to prevent re-exploitation. Throughout the implementation of the proposed regulations, we recommend that law enforcement partner with social service providers to offer services that will help victims permanently escape from the cycle of exploitation.

These proposed changes to the City's massage establishment police permit regulations have already been implemented by cities and counties throughout California. Human trafficking is a significant issue in San Diego and we commend the City's proposal to address this problem by enacting this legislation. We offer our support and look forward to working with you, City Attorney Mara Elliott, and the San Diego Police Department.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jamie Quient". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Jamie Quient
President & Managing Attorney
Free to Thrive

CC: Honorable Kevin L. Faulconer, Mayor
Honorable Mara Elliott, City Attorney
David Nisleit, Chief of Police